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I hereby certify that the below-identified **Amendment and Response to Office Action** is being deposited as First Class Mail on this date with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to Box AMENDMENT-FEE, Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231-0001.

Date: January 16, 2001

By: _____

Harvey Zeman
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

PATENT

Applicant: Nelson et al.

Docket No.: 41821.0237

Serial No.: 09/808,275

Examiner: Gary W. Counts

Filed: March 14, 2001

Art Unit: 1641

Title: MASS SPECTROMETRIC IMMUNOASSAY

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Box AMENDMENT-FEE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-0001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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Honorable Commissioner:

In response to the Office Action dated July 16, 2002, the period of response for which is hereby extended by three month to January 16, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 16, with the following paragraph:

--While the new MALDI techniques opened the field of biomolecular mass spectrometry, the mass spectrometric analysis of complex biological materials was not possible because of matrix overloading. Recently, Hutchens et al. (Hutchens, T.W. and Yip, T., Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry, vol 7, 1993, pp. 576-580.) demonstrated the utilization of affinity capture methods to quasi-purify proteins in a specimen prior to MALDI mass spectrometry. By